

(d) The value (cost + procurement incidentals) of wheat, rice and paddy procured by the Food Corporation of India and other State Agencies from 1.4.2001 to 31.10.2001 is as under:

Commodity	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Value (approx. in Rs. crores)
Wheat	206.30	16034
Rice	34.97	3837
Paddy	109.73	7600
Total	351.00	27471

Export Policy for wheat

†1229. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to export wheat keeping in view the abundant stock of wheat in the country;

(b) if so, the target fixed to export wheat during the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) the details of necessary steps being taken by Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government in order to encourage export of wheat has offered 50 lakh tonnes of wheat each in year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 to PSUs, private parties and other agencies;

(c) The steps taken to achieve the targets include the following:

(i) Offer wheat from the Central pool for export and maintain the export price of wheat at internationally competitive levels;

(ii) To constantly monitor exports of wheat and sort out the problems on this front;

(iii) Setting up Cleaning facilities at the Kandla Port for ensuring that acceptable quality of foodgrains are sent for export; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iv) Creation of an Export Cell in the Department of Food & Public Distribution to deal with export of foodgrains in a focussed manner.

Long Term export policy for foodgrains

†1230. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a long-term export policy keeping in mind the bulk storage of foodgrains in the country and better prospects of bumper crop;

(b) if so, whether "ASSOCHAM" has registered its protest with Government against enhancing the price of wheat to Rs. 4250/- per tonne after taking a decision to fix its price @ Rs. 4200/- per tonne; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government is fixing the export price of wheat for issue from the Central pool after considering the International prices of wheat and other related factors before announcing the export prices from time to time.

Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains with it in the Central pool *vis-a-vis* the prescribed buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend for procurement for Central Pool, requirement for Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes, open market prices, etc. A decision to import or export foodgrains on Government account is taken depending on the overall situation.

(b) ASSOCHAM had expressed the view that increase in export price was likely to slow down exports.

(c) The Government decides the export price from time to time keeping the trends in international prices of foodgrains and other related factors in view.

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